

NOVEMBER 2002

**IMPORT HEALTH REQUIREMENTS OF COSTA RICA  
FOR DOGS AND CATS EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES**

The dogs or cats must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian, and endorsed by a Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian. Additional information shall include:

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS**

1. The dog/cat was examined and found to be healthy and free of any clinical signs of infectious disease. Note: In general this examination should be conducted within 2 weeks of the departure date.
2. The animals were vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus and rabies.

**VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. See Certification Statement No. 2.
2. All dogs and cats must be vaccinated against rabies (modified rabies vaccine) no more than one year prior to exportation, and no less than 30 days prior to arrival in Costa Rica.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

1. It is recommended that a State or Federal (VS Form 18-1), U.S. Interstate and International Certificate for Small Animals be used.
2. The accompanying health certificate should be made out at least in duplicate.
3. The health certificate does NOT need to be signed by a Notary Public, nor does it need to be stamped by the Costa Rican Consular office.
4. Animals exported in commercial lot numbers must be accompanied by an import permit. Personal pet dogs or cats do not need an Import permit.
5. The rabies vaccination certificate should accompany the health documents.